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APPLICATION NUMBER: 60/558,164

FILING DATE: *March 30, 2004*

RELATED PCT APPLICATION NUMBER: *PCT/US05/10885*



Certified by

Under Secretary of Commerce
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PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT COVER SHEET

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c).

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INVENTOR(S)					
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Additional inventors are being named on the _____ separately numbered sheets attached hereto					
TITLE OF THE INVENTION (500 characters max)					
METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ON-LINE AND IN-PERSON SKILLS TRAINING					
Direct all correspondence to: CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Customer Number:		07278			
OR					
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ENCLOSED APPLICATION PARTS (check all that apply)					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification Number of Pages		10		<input type="checkbox"/> CD(s), Number	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) Number of Sheets		1		<input type="checkbox"/> Other	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Data Sheet. See 37 CFR 1.76		(specify): Application Data Sheet; Return Postcard; Certificate of Express Mailing			
METHOD OF PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR THIS PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.		FILING FEE AMOUNT (\$)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A check or money order is enclosed to cover the filing fees.		80.00			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Director is hereby authorized to charge filing fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number:		04-0100			
<input type="checkbox"/> Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.					
The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.					
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are:			

[Page 1 of 1]

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 30, 2004

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47.522

Docket Number:

20150/0201125-US0

USE ONLY FOR FILING A PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT

Express Mail Label No. EL99406789545 Dated: 3/30/08



17364 U.S. PTO

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FEE TRANSMITTAL for FY 2004

Effective 10/01/2003, Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

☒ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$) 80.00

Complete if Known

Application Number	Not Yet Assigned
Filing Date	Concurrently Herewith
First Named Inventor	Peter Hearn
Examiner Name	Not Yet Assigned
Art Unit	N/A
Attorney Docket No.	20150/0201125-US0

METHOD OF PAYMENT (check all that apply)☒ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Money Order ☐ Other ☐ None☐ Deposit Account:

Deposit Account Number

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Deposit Account Name

Darby & Darby P.C.

The Director is authorized to: (check all that apply)

☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below ☒ Credit any overpayments☐ Charge any additional fee(s) or any underpayment of fee(s)☐ Charge fee(s) indicated below, except for the filing fee to the above-identified deposit account.**FEE CALCULATION (continued)****3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1051	130	2051	65	Surcharge - late filing fee or oath	
1052	50	2052	25	Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.	
1053	130	1053	130	Non-English specification	
1812	2,520	1812	2,520	For filing a request for <i>ex parte</i> reexamination	
1804	920*	1804	920*	Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action	
1805	1,840*	1805	1,840*	Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action	
1251	110	2251	55	Extension for reply within first month	
1252	420	2252	210	Extension for reply within second month	
1253	950	2253	475	Extension for reply within third month	
1254	1,480	2254	740	Extension for reply within fourth month	
1255	2,010	2255	1,005	Extension for reply within fifth month	
1401	330	2401	165	Notice of Appeal	
1402	330	2402	165	Filing a brief in support of an appeal	
1403	290	2403	145	Request for oral hearing	
1451	1,510	1451	1,510	Petition to institute a public use proceeding	
1452	110	2452	55	Petition to revive - unavoidable	
1453	1,330	2453	665	Petition to revive - unintentional	
1501	1,330	2501	665	Utility issue fee (or reissue)	
1502	480	2502	240	Design issue fee	
1503	640	2503	320	Plant issue fee	
1460	130	1460	130	Petitions to the Commissioner	
1807	50	1807	50	Processing fee under 37 CFR 1.17(q)	
1806	180	1806	180	Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt	
8021	40	8021	40	Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties)	
1809	770	2809	385	Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR 1.129(a))	
1810	770	2810	385	For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR 1.129(b))	
1801	770	2801	385	Request for Continued Examination (RCE)	
1802	900	1802	900	Request for expedited examination of a design application	

Other fee (specify)

*Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

SUBTOTAL (3) (\$) 0.00

FEE CALCULATION**1. BASIC FILING FEE**

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description	Fee Paid
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)		
1001	770	2001	385	Utility filing fee	
1002	340	2002	170	Design filing fee	
1003	530	2003	265	Plant filing fee	
1004	770	2004	385	Reissue filing fee	
1005	160	2005	80	Provisional filing fee	80.00

SUBTOTAL (1) (\$) 80.00

2. EXTRA CLAIM FEES FOR UTILITY AND REISSUE

	Extra Claims	Fee from below	Fee Paid
Total Claims	-20** =		
Independent Claims	-3** =		
Multiple Dependent			

Large Entity		Small Entity		Fee Description
Fee Code	Fee (\$)	Fee Code	Fee (\$)	
1202	18	2202	9	Claims in excess of 20
1201	86	2201	43	Independent claims in excess of 3
1203	290	2203	145	Multiple dependent claim, if not paid
1204	86	2204	43	** Reissue independent claims over original patent
1205	18	2205	9	** Reissue claims in excess of 20 and over original patent

SUBTOTAL (2) (\$) 0.00

**or number previously paid, if greater; For Reissues, see above

SUBMITTED BY

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99406789545

Dated:

3/30/04

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. **EL 994067895 US** in an envelope addressed to:

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Signature

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Application Data Sheet Specification (14 pages)
Drawings (1 sheets)
Provisional Patent Application Transmittal (1 page)
Application Data Sheet (2 pages)
Fee Transmittal (1 page)
Return Postcard
Check in the amount of \$ 80.00

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ON-LINE AND IN-PERSON SKILLS TRAINING

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

I. Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a method and system for skills training both on-line and in-person. More particularly, on-line training of the information required for performing a skill and in person training of the actual skill.

II. Discussion of the Related Art

Traditional skills training involves both classroom time and physical practice time. A student must attend a class to receive instruction regarding the information surrounding the skill to be learned. The classes are typically at a fixed time and location and are sometimes inconvenient for the student to attend. The classes are typically not offered more than once or twice in a given session and if a student misses a class, the student must either learn the material on his own or delay his certification until the class can be taken. Certification exams are typically given at the end of the classroom session to verify that the student has learned the necessary information to pass to the physical training portion.

An example of the traditional skill training session is for lifeguard training. Sessions given by the American Red Cross involve both classroom and physical training. Classroom education for a lifeguard revolves around the basics of rescuing drowning individuals. Also instruction of the identification and uses for the basic lifesaving equipment, including hooks, life preservers, floats, respirators, and backboards. The classroom training is divided into chapters and quizzes can be offered after each chapter. At the end of the classroom training a

certification exam is given and a passing grade is required for certification. Additionally, physical training at a body of water, e.g. a pool, is also required and can be given after the classroom training is complete or classroom and physical training can be given alternately once the students have studied the information necessary for the physical training. The physical training involves practicing simulated rescues involving different victims and situations.

The training session can be long and time consuming. The classroom training can be long, boring, and, for some students, not offered at convenient times and locations. An object of the present invention is to provide on-line training for students involved in a skill training session while providing for the physical training aspect of training in-person.

Further, on-line classes and examinations are known in the art, however, it is typically not linked to a physical training event. Most on-line or remote teaching and testing systems completely replace any physical interaction between the student and the teacher and allow to the student to learn all of the information without guidance or supervision of a qualified instructor. The drawbacks to these systems are that the students do not get substantive feedback on the answers to their questions and information regarding the context of the material being taught. Information and feedback is typically offered by the live instructor.

Furthermore, the locations that offer the training want the students to attend classes and training at their establishment to “bond” with the student. Often the training location may also have a retail business associated with the trained skill. For example, the skill of scuba diving requires both classroom and physical training and is usually taught by representatives of a scuba equipment store. The representatives want the student to become a customer of the business and want to form a connection with the student.

Knowledge of not only the retail location but also the training cites let the student pick the most convenient training location and the invention receives, from the student, a preferred training location selected from the list of training locations.

In one embodiment, the preferred training location sells training materials to the student at the preferred training location and once the student has reviewed his training materials, he is ready to be quizzed on the material to test his knowledge. The training materials can be divided into chapters and sub-chapters and quizzes can be provided at any point or points within the training materials.

When the student identifies that he is ready to be tested, the invention transmits, to the student, at least one of a first set of questions based on the skill. The questions can be further based on the training materials received from the preferred training location. The questions can be modified to suit the training materials and the preference of the instructor. The first set of questions can be based on any one chapter or sub-chapter in the training materials or on all the information required for the skill. Any number of questions can be asked on the subject matter.

The answer to the question is received from the student and is typically received after the student clicks a “send” or “done” button on the system to initiate sending the answer. Once the answer is received, it is responded to in real time. An embodiment determines if the answer is one of a correct answer or a wrong answer. If the answer is a correct answer, a correct notification is sent to the student and can include the correct answer, a value of the question, a relationship between the question and the skill, a relationship between the question and a physical aspect of the skill, and a time during the training when the physical aspect of the

In an embodiment, both the correct and incorrect notifications can be edited by an instructor and can be customized for each training location. This allows each location to include important information specific to diving in the region surrounding the training location. For example, native plants and fish that may be harmful to divers. This also allows the program to be modified to fit the individual training styles of the instructors who teach the course.

Another embodiment includes determining a product related to the questions and including an advertisement for the product in a response. A retail location can provide information regarding products in stock that are related to the question. For example, if the question is regarding the proper procedure to clear a dive mask, the response can include an advertisement for a dive mask that is “quick and easy to clear”. The advertisements can further include travel and vacation information geared to diving.

Once the student has completed all of the chapters and answered enough questions to receive a passing grade. The student can then be required to take his final certifying exam. The student is queried, at the training location, with at least one of a second set of questions based on the skill. The second set of questions can be on the certifying exam and again based on the training materials and can be modified for each instructor. Alternately, the certifying

exam can be a standardized test given by a standards group and cannot be altered by the individual training locations. Once the student has completed some or all of the questions regarding the skill, the student is trained in a physical aspect of the skill at the preferred training location. The physical training can occur during the questioning process outlined above. The student completes a chapter and then schedules a physical training session based on the completed materials.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

The above and still further objects, features and advantages of the present invention will become apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description of a specific embodiment thereof, especially when taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings wherein like reference numerals in the various figures are utilized to designate like components, and wherein:

Figure 1 is a flow chart of a skill training method of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a flow chart of an embodiment of the skill training method of Figure 1.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

Referring now to Figure 1, a method for training a student in a skill partially over a network is illustrated. The method can be used to teach a skill that may require both learned knowledge and physical training. The inventors contemplate this method can be used in most training situations, for example, lifeguard, water safety instructor, pilot, mechanic, tractor trailer driver, automobile driver, heavy equipment operator, police officer, fireperson, first

aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and paramedic. The training can be for both professional and recreational skills. The invention is described below in an example of training a student how to scuba dive.

A typical student interested in learning how to scuba dive can go onto a network to gather information regarding learning how to dive. Typically the student accesses the Internet or World Wide Web in search of information on a web site. The student can access the network from any network compatible device including a computer, PDA, and cell phone. Once the student accesses the system, it displays, to the student, a list of at least one training locations (step 102). Training locations are, at least, the business location where the instructors have their retail location. Additionally, and distinct from the prior art, are a listing of training cites where the actual physical training is performed. For example, scuba retail locations in urban areas typically do not have a pool attached where they perform practice dives. Typically the scuba trainers rent a pool from a local gym, spa, school, or a YMCA. Students pick training locations typically by proximity to where they live or work. Knowledge of not only the retail location but also the training cites let the student pick the most convenient training location and the invention receives, from the student, a preferred training location selected from the list of training locations (step 104). The preferred training location is the location where the student's instructor typically works and the training schedule the student will follow.

In one embodiment, the preferred training location sells training materials to the student at the preferred training location (step 120). The training materials can be text books, video tapes, audio tapes, flashcards, CD-Rom, DVD, computer software or any combination of the

above. The training materials can be selected and or modified by the preferred retail location and are the material the student studies from.

Once the student has reviewed his training materials, he is ready to be quizzed on the material to test his knowledge. The training materials can be divided into chapters and sub-chapters and quizzes can be provided at any point or points within the training materials. The student can now log into the present invention to begin the quizzing process. At some point in the method, the student registered and provided all the information necessary to identify the student and the preferred training location. Additionally, the user can pay for the training and quizzes on-line. Other information can include a self assessed skill level in the skill or the identification of previous certifications or classes within the skill.

When the student identifies that he is ready to be tested, the invention transmits, to the student, at least one of a first set of questions based on the skill (step 106). The questions can be further based on the training materials received from the preferred training location. The questions can be modified to suit the training materials and the preference of the instructor. The first set of questions can be based on any one chapter or sub-chapter in the training materials or on all the information required for the skill. Any number of questions can be asked on the subject matter. The questions can be true/false; multiple choice; fill-in the blank; or essay style questions. Once the student answers the question, it is received from the student (step 108). Typically, the answer is received after the student clicks a “send” or “done” button on the system to initiate sending the answer to the invention.

Once the answer is received, it is responded to in real time (step 110). In one embodiment, illustrated in Figure 2, show the different responses. An embodiment determines

if the answer is one of a correct answer and a wrong answer (step 202). The determination can be made by comparing the answer to an answer key in a database or software can review an essay answer and pull out the key words to compare them to a list of key words. If the answer is a correct answer, a correct notification is sent to the student (step 204). The correct notification can include the correct answer, a value of the question, a relationship between the question and the skill, a relationship between the question and a physical aspect of the skill, and a time during the training when the physical aspect of the skill is performed. Alternately, if the student answered with the wrong answer, an incorrect notification is sent to the student (step 206). The incorrect notification includes the wrong answer and the correct answer and can alternately include a value of the question, a relationship between the question and the skill, a relationship between the question and a physical aspect of the skill, and a time during the training when the physical aspect of the skill is performed.

In an embodiment, both the correct and incorrect notifications can be edited by an instructor and can be customized for each training location. This allows each location to include important information specific to diving in the region surrounding the training location. For example, native plants and fish that may be harmful to divers. This also allows the program to be modified to fit the individual training styles of the instructors who teach the course.

Another embodiment of the responding step includes determining a product related to the questions (step 208) and including in a response an advertisement for the product (step 210). This is an important feature for retail training locations. A retail location can provide information regarding products in stock that are related to the question. For example, if the

question is regarding the proper procedure to clear a dive mask, the response can include an advertisement for a dive mask that is “quick and easy to clear”. The advertisements can further include travel and vacation information geared to diving. For example, a dive trip to a reef or wreck either near by or at a known dive location anywhere in the world. What information can be included in the response can be selected by representative of the product or the preferred training location or some information from each party.

Another embodiment places a link in the response to provide audio, video or redirection to a web site for more information. Additionally, the instructor can be on-line and the student, while answering the questions, can instant message or e-mail the instructor for more information, hints or clarification. Additionally, the response can provide the instructor’s e-mail address to provide an easy link to the instructor.

Once the student has completed all of the chapters and answered enough questions to receive a passing grade. The student can then be required to take his final certifying exam. The student is queried, at the training location, with at least one of a second set of questions based on the skill (step 112). The second set of questions can be on the certifying exam and again based on the training materials and can be modified for each instructor. Alternately, the certifying exam can be a standardized test given by a standards group and cannot be altered by the individual training locations. One of the benefits of an embodiment requiring a student to take a certifying exam at the training location is that the exam can be proctored and verified that the student truly performed the work and understands the material. The certifying exam can be given at the end of every chapter or can be one ‘final’ exam after all of the chapters have been completed.

Once the student has completed some or all of the questions regarding the skill, the student is trained in a physical aspect of the skill at the preferred training location (step 114). The physical training can occur during the questioning process outlined above. The student completes a chapter and then schedules a physical training session based on the completed materials. The present invention can provide for the scheduling of the physical training and notifying the preferred training location that the student has completed the requisite course work to be permitted to attend the physical training.

The invention can be characterized by the following points:

1. A method for training a student in a skill partially over a network comprising the steps of:
 - displaying, to the student, a list of at least one training locations;
 - receiving, from the student, a preferred training location selected from the list of training locations;
 - transmitting, to the student, at least one of a first set of questions based on the skill;
 - receiving from the student an answer to the question;
 - responding to the answer to the question in real time; and
 - querying the student, at the training location, with at least one of a second set of questions based on the skill.

2. The method of point 1, further comprising the step of training the student in a physical aspect of the skill at the preferred training location.
3. The method of point 1, further comprising the step of selling training materials to the student at the preferred training location.
4. The method of point 3, wherein the first questions are also based on the training materials.
5. The method of point 3, wherein the second questions are also based on the training materials.
6. The method of point 3, wherein the training materials are at least one of text books, video tapes, audio tapes, flashcards, CD-Rom, DVD, and computer software.
7. The method of point 1, wherein the responding step comprises the steps of:
determining if the answer is one of a correct answer and a wrong answer;
sending, if the correct answer, a correct notification to the student, wherein the correct notification includes the correct answer;
sending, if the wrong answer, a incorrect notification to the student, wherein the incorrect notification includes the wrong answer and the correct answer.

8. The method of point 1, wherein the responding step comprises the steps of:
determining a product related to the at least one of the first set of questions; and
including in a response an advertisement for the product.
9. The method of point 8, wherein the determining step is performed by a representative of the product.
10. The method of point 8, the determining step is performed by the preferred training location.
11. The method of point 1, wherein the responding step comprises the step of providing at least one of a value of the at least one first question, a relationship between the at least one first question and the skill, a relationship between the at least one first question and a physical aspect of the skill, and a time when the physical aspect of the skill is performed.

ABSTRACT

A method for training a student in a skill over a network and a student accesses the system and it displays a list of at least one training location. In one embodiment, the preferred training location sells training materials to the student and the student identifies that he is ready to be tested. The invention transmits, to the student, at least one of a first set of questions based on the skill. Once the answer is received, it is responded to in real time. An embodiment determines if the answer is one of a correct answer or a wrong answer and either a correct or an incorrect notification is sent to the student. Both the correct and incorrect notifications can be edited and can be customized for each training location to include an advertisement for the product in a response regarding products related to the question.

FIGURE 1

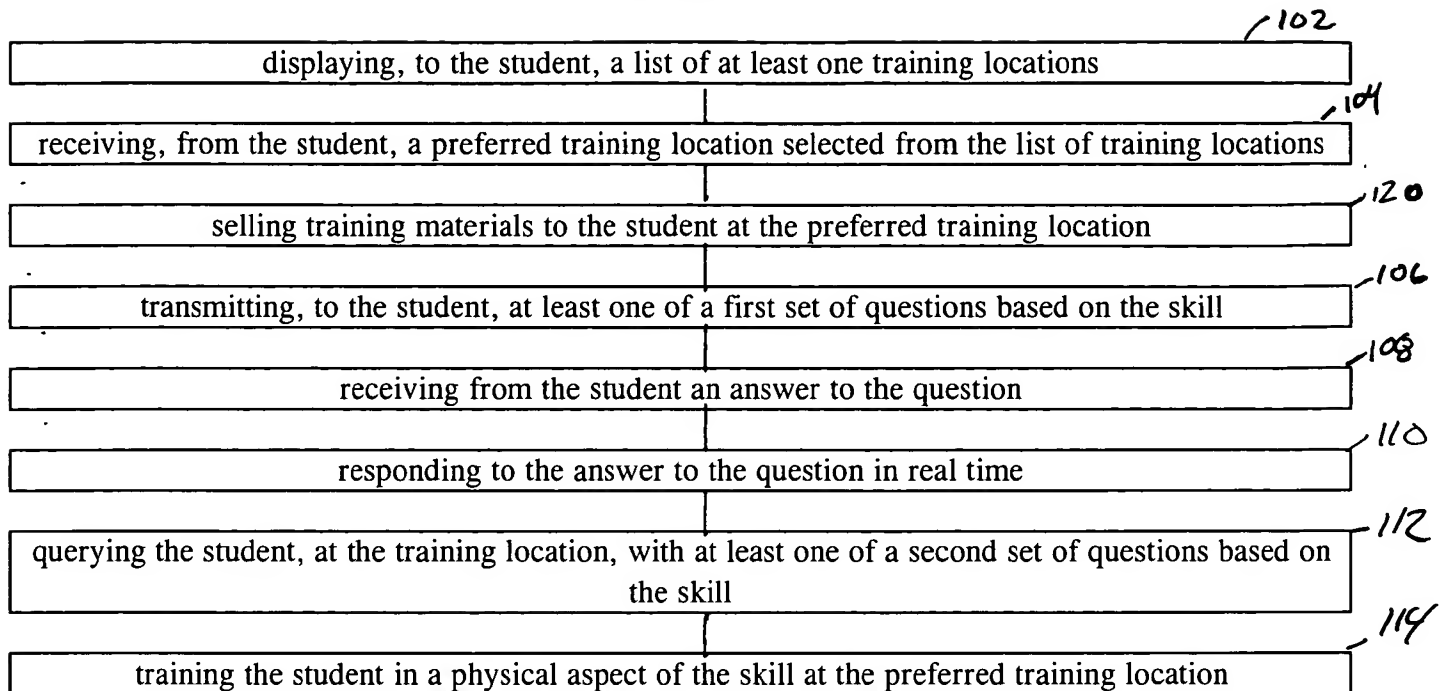
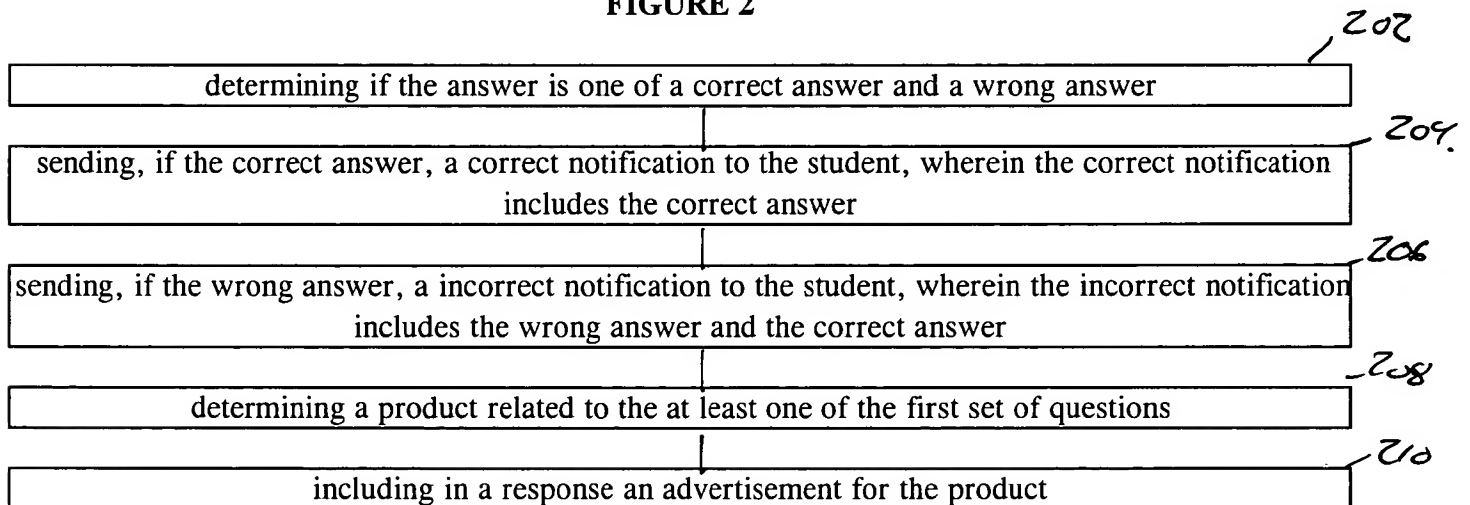


FIGURE 2



Application Data Sheet

Application Information

Application Type::	Provisional
Subject Matter::	Utility
Suggested Group Art Unit::	N/A
CD-ROM or CD-R?::	None
Sequence submission?::	None
Computer Readable Form (CRF)?::	No
Title::	METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ON-LINE AND IN-PERSON SKILLS TRAINING
Attorney Docket Number::	20150/0201125-US0
Request for Early Publication?::	No
Request for Non-Publication?::	No
Small Entity?::	No
Petition included?::	No
Secrecy Order in Parent Appl.?::	No

Applicant Information

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